



Daniel Lurie  
Mayor

Julie Lamarre  
Executive Director

Date: November 18, 2025

To: Commission Streamlining Task Force

From: Julie Lamarre, Executive Director, San Francisco Board of Appeals

Re: Item 10b. Revisiting Hire/Fire Authority-Board of Appeals

Dear Chair Harrington and Task Force Members:

I have been the Executive Director of the San Francisco Board of Appeals since March 2018. I understand that this Task Force is interested in matters relating to the appointment and removal of various City department heads, and that the Board of Appeals is one of the departments that will be considered at your meeting on November 19, 2025. Therefore, I thought that I would offer some observations about this topic, as it applies to the Board of Appeals.

As you may know, the Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial body established in 1932 under the City Charter to hear appeals concerning various City-issued permits and determinations. Its mission is to provide an efficient, fair and expeditious public hearing and decision-making process before an impartial panel of five commissioners.

A staff of three, including the Executive Director as the department head, assists the commissioners in processing appeals, holding public hearings, and related administrative matters. Under the Charter, the Executive Director may be appointed or removed by a vote of three of the five commissioners. Of the five commissioners, three are nominated by the Mayor, and two are appointed by the President of the Board of Supervisors (in each case, subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors). The commissioners interact closely with the Executive Director and are well situated to gauge that person's performance, in supporting the commissioners on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

The existing framework seems to have worked well for many decades. Given the Board of Appeals' mandate to serve the public as an impartial, quasi-judicial panel, as well as the purely administrative nature of the Executive Director's role, I would respectfully submit that no Charter amendment is needed with respect to the Board of Appeals, to continue to ensure appropriate accountability.

Thank you for your time, and for your continued efforts on behalf of the City.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Lamarre".

Julie Lamarre

Executive Director, San Francisco Board of Appeals